

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31 are pending in the application. A previous amendment cancelled claim 27 and this amendment cancels claims 4, 6, and 24.

Claims 2, 16-21, and 29 are provisionally withdrawn from consideration due to an election requirement. If claims 2, 16-21, and 29 depend from an allowable claim, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined into the application and examined.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the section 112, second paragraph, rejection.

The Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 8-10 have been allowed.

The remaining claims stand rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Matthews and Johnson.

By way of this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the invention. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over the prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cargo bed has at least one elongated recess formed in the body, the recess being recessed with respect to the contour of adjacent portions of a horizontal plane of the cargo bed, and at least one tie-down track mounted on the body along the elongated recess such that a slotted surface of the track does not extend appreciably beyond the horizontal plane of the cargo bed.

As indicated in Figure 2 of the present application, the body 110 has a recessed portion (which is approximately U shaped in the preferred embodiment) and as indicated in Figure 1, this recessed portion is elongated and the track runs along the elongated recess. At least this feature is completely missing from the cited prior art. Matthews has a flat bed

which does not include any such recessed portion. As indicated in Figure 6 of Johnson, Johnson also does not have this feature.

It is thus respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable over the prior art.

**As discussed with the Examiner by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if the application is not in condition for allowance.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By  \_\_\_\_\_

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